

Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal.

PUBLISHED BY THE BOSTON WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION, FOR THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

The returns made by towns, in answering the demands upon them under the calls of July and August last, for their respective quotas of troops, show that 2,947 men from Maine have enlisted in the regiments of other States. Besides these, she has sent into the field twenty-eight regiments of infantry, six batteries of light artillery, one regiment of cavalry and one company of home guards, stationed at the principal ports on her seacoast. These, including the recruits to fill vacancies in old regiments, make an aggregate of 33,137 men, furnished towards defending our Union and suppressing rebellion. In addition to these thousands which have been furnished for the army, it is estimated that at least 4,000 have entered the naval and marine service, to protect our commerce and maintain the honor of our flag upon the ocean.

The Eighth Regiment of Maine Volunteers, with which it is now my privilege to be connected, left Augusta Sept. 10, 1861. After encamping at Hampstead, L. I., Washington, D. C., and Annapolis, Md., it sailed on the steamer Ariel, Oct. 23, in company with a large fleet, under orders, and arrived at Hilton Head, S. C., Nov. 7, after a rough and stormy passage.

In February and March following they were engaged in erecting batteries on Tybee and Darien Islands, for the purpose of subduing Fort Pulaski, commanding the entrance of Savannah River; and for Mr. Russell, the correspondent of the London Times, pronounced to be impregnable. But after the completion of their batteries, and a bombardment of about thirty hours, it surrendered to the Union troops, April 11, and the flag of the Eighth Maine was the first to wave over its rebellious walls.

These batteries were built by drawing and carrying logs, poles and bags of sand, by night, through marshes of mud and water often up to the men's waists. Here many contracted diseases from which they never recovered; and in June following there were not two hundred able men in the regiment who could be mustered for duty. Here, also, amid the damps and malaria—the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday—our efficient and much respected Col. Rust, sickened, and just escaped with his life. And he was not the only one of our officers or men who entered the country's service with strong constitutions and unimpaired health, but will carry from Tybee's deadly miasma the seeds of disease which will hurry them to a premature grave.

The 3d of July last the regiment moved to Beaufort, where we are now encamped. A large number of recruits joined us in November, and our aggregate number at this time is eight hundred and fifty, only about twenty being sick in hospital and quarters, including a number of disabled and superannuated men. In health and physical stamina, discipline and drill, accomplished and diligent officers, true patriotism and loyalty, intelligence and energy, I believe the Eighth Regiment is surpassed by none from our State.

Beaufort is said to have derived its name from a fort, built by the French in the sixteenth century, about three miles down the river towards the ocean, and is a contraction of "Beautiful Fort." The Island of Beaufort is surrounded by Coosaw River on the north, Beaufort River on the east, and Broad River on the West, the last two uniting the streams. At the Ferry it is about half a mile across to the mainland; and here the loyal and rebel sentinels converse, and sometimes exchange shots with each other. Here I have seen them repeatedly passing and repassing, on horse and foot. Their camp fires are distinctly visible, and their rifles heard while firing by regiments of platoons in their drills.

The city of Beaufort, fifteen miles from Hilton Head, is an ancient and on many accounts delightful place, the Newport of the South, where the aristocracy, the F. F. S. C. resided before the war. It is reported to have contained about 8,000 inhabitants, all of whom fled in the greatest consternation and disgust when the hated Yankees approached, leaving behind valuable property and comfortable residences, many of them richly furnished, to be scattered and ruined. Of the houses, a large number of the largest and most commodious are occupied as general hospitals, others for the headquarters of military officers, and some by the former slaves of their once haughty and exacting masters! In some of the negro quarters you can see costly furniture, vases, statues, pictures and dishes, taken from the abandoned homes of the wealthy; and on the colored streets women with necklaces, collars, dresses, rich white rags, shawls, over persons and garments filthy and repulsive,—an incongruous and out of place as it would be to see an elephant in a china store, or a chimney sweep in a milliner's shop.

The streets cross each other at right angles, running nearly parallel with the cardinal points of the compass. They are narrow and sandy, a general receptacle for chips and offal, and without an exception unpaved. But very few streets are margined with sidewalks, and they are narrow and irregular, curbed in with plank, and made a little more passable than the middle of the streets by mingling oyster shells with the sand. With few exceptions the houses are ancient, untidy and uninviting in appearance, dilapidated and out of repair. They abound in small additions, porches, verandas, and gambrel roofs. They are generally elevated from one to six feet from the ground, to allow the air a free circulation, and are supported by brick, or oyster shell and cement pillars. The chimneys are outside, at the ends. The windows, when protected at all, are more generally protected by close, heavy board shutters, than by light, cheerful, comfortable blinds, such as shade the rooms of almost every cottage in a million's shop.

The city is a Port of Entry, the harbor an excellent one, and commerce and trade is increasing daily. It has a post office, express office, hotel, printing office, from which the Free South, a well conducted and racy newspaper, is issued weekly, stores where almost anything Northern markets afford can be purchased, but I think at enormous prices and profits.

Two years ago, when South Carolina adopted the secession ordinance, how unlikely it appeared that the churches of Beaufort would be opened for the unmolested proclamation of a free gospel and the great sin of slaveholding, by New England ministers. It has been my lot to preach in the pulpit of the Protestant Episcopal Church once on nearly every Sabbath since the middle of December. I have endeavored to proclaim the same truths I did in New England during sixteen years in the ministry; and it has not diminished my zeal or made my feelings less intense, to realize that my pulpit was no longer the slave market,—the altar, the baptismal font, and the table from which to receive the emblems of the body and blood of Him who visited our world to break off every yoke and set the oppressed free, so near the chearless "quarters," the crushed intellects and sorrowing hearts of our fellow mortals. I saw slavery in Louisiana years ago, and every generous feeling of my nature had risen up in abhorrence against the system; but I never learned so much of the secret code of the vile institution as since I have been here; and in future I add to my abhorrence, disgust and unmitigated contempt for the accursed system and the nefarious measures adopted to protect and perpetuate it.

But we must not altogether forget the birds, those well known harbingers of the Spring. The first song of praise which ascended to the Creator of all things from the newly made world, was from the

fall, are beginning to look green, the new grass is springing, the peach, cherry, fig and plum are in bloom, the garden flowers are smiling, the birds are singing all around us;—and I am thinking how you are shivering in the midst of snow storms, cold winds and ice.

The brigade at this post, formerly under Brig. Gen. Branson, is now commanded by Gen. Saxton, an accomplished military officer, enthusiastically devoted to the interests of his country, and very popular with his troops. The brigade passed under the review of Maj. Gen. Hunter on the 25th inst.

The preparation in this department for active service, by land and water, are on a large scale, and in a state of completion which indicates speedy action. We shall go into the work cheerfully, with good courage and unwavering trust in God.

Yours truly, C. NASON.
Beaufort, S. C., Feb. 28.

SPRING IS COMING.

BY C. R. DISBROW, ESQ.

Away to the hills, the streams, the woods, for a spell of peace is there; a welcome blend from the perfumed air;

And thither the heart shall find a friend in every flower, tree,

And Nature's forms and beautiful forms shall whisper of love to thee."

The spring season is the time when every man, who can, should away to the woods and fields, to behold and contemplate the wonders and beauties of the verdure. Who has neglected this privilege and duty, knows not what a beautiful world he lives in. When I see a delicate, amiable figure confined and hanging over the embroidery frame, I think, poor, dear flower, thy heart is benumbed, and thou knowest but little of the air and the sun. Wouldst thou but place thyself in its cheering rays, how would thy blossoms unfold! Only inhale God's breath which moves from mountain to mountain, thy heart would open, and thou wouldst stand in pious astonishment before God's beautiful works. In the Spring time the whole country is a vast garden, nor can we visit it, without beholding the goodness and bounty of Providence, which has made the most pleasing and beautiful objects the most ordinary and common, to all who will take the care to consider them.

"There is not a leaf within the bower,

There is not a bird upon the tree,

There is not a flower in the flower,

But bears the impress, Lord, of thee."

The country! Its great builder is God! We see his divine handiwork in every step we take, from the ground beneath our feet, to the trees rising tall and green above our heads. The solemn woods to us seem like the great cathedrals which God himself hath erected,—as if a holier religion might here reign than was ever found within the towering temples created by the proud hand of man. The deep roaring of the winds, or the rustling of the leaves by the gentle gales, awaken the heart to meditation and prayer. No hewen pillars carved by mortal hands look so grand and reverent as an aisle of venerable oaks; and beneath their lofty boughs we have felt an awe which the vaunted builder could never awaken. Man builds the one—the Great Architect the other. Trees have beauty and character, and therefore, from time immemorial the forest has been the theme of song, and to this day "ylvan solite" is the magic spell of romance. What can be compared to the woods—Nature's own sanctuary? Sunbeams, leaves, dewdrops and moss wave through their branches, shedding a balmy freshness, whilst the wafting of the wind, like a distant hymn, murmurs in the silence. This is the quiet retreat for solitary thought. Under the sheltering roof of the *Pat*, the ancients imagined *Apollon* was born, and his leaves contained his ornament until he chose the laurel. Its blossoms are celebrated in eastern songs, whilst its branches crowned the Olympic victor and were also consecrated to great solemnities. Fruitfulness, peace, honor and wisdom, selected the Palm for their symbol. We involuntarily feel a deep interest for trees, and hail with joy and gladness the season when they put off their winter mourning. They are the living memorials of times gone by, standing as mediators between *Past* and *Present*. Witnesses too are they of our own pilgrimage on the earth, for our youth has grown up with them, our earliest and most cherished thoughts have become interwoven with them, and thus they are a waking echo even for our deeply slumbering feelings and imaginations.

No other plant did the ancients bestow such grateful care as on the *Olive*, whose nourishing gifts were indispensable to the South. With the olive branch in his hand, the suppliant approached the gods and consulted their oracles, and with this same green symbol the Carthaginians appeared before Scipio, imploring him to spare their lives, after brave fighting during six days and nights.

The treacherous mountain tribes went to meet Hannibal with garlands of Olive on their heads, when he crossed the Alps. In the history of the Deluge, it is an Olive leaf which proclaims to the terrified world that heaven is appeased.

But we must not forget the *Oak* in our contemplation, which is the aboriginal tree of Europe. The *Phœbus*, with those wandering heroes who once sought a home on the shores of Greece, revered the *Oak* as the tree of life. Its fruit appeared their boughs, when the hated Yankees approached, leaving behind valuable property and comfortable residences, many of them richly furnished, to be scattered and ruined.

Of the houses, a large number of the largest and most commodious are occupied as general hospitals, others for the headquarters of military officers, and some by the former slaves of their once haughty and exacting masters!

In some of the negro quarters you can see costly furniture, vases, statues, pictures and dishes, taken from the abandoned homes of the wealthy; and on the colored streets women with necklaces, collars, dresses, rich white rags, shawls, over persons and garments filthy and repulsive,—an incongruous and out of place as it would be to see an elephant in a china store, or a chimney sweep in a milliner's shop.

The streets cross each other at right angles, running nearly parallel with the cardinal points of the compass. They are narrow and sandy, a general receptacle for chips and offal, and without an exception unpaved.

But very few streets are margined with sidewalks, and they are narrow and irregular, curbed in with plank, and made a little more passable than the middle of the streets by mingling oyster shells with the sand.

With difficulty the bright-eyed little boy is torn from his father's neck, and with equal effort the strong man drives back his tears as he whispers the last "good bye," and feels the last embrace of one whose heart is all his own.

All are on board; the wheel plashes in the water, and like a funeral knell the sound falls on the heart of that mother as she stands close to the water's edge, her boy pressed in her arms. One moment her marble face flushes, as amid the waving of many banners she distinguishes plainly a loving hand reaching back as if to pronounce one last blessing.

Months have passed. The lonely mother has felt an awe which the vaunted builder could never awaken. Man builds the one—the Great Architect the other. Trees have beauty and character, and therefore, from time immemorial the forest has been the theme of song, and to this day "ylvan solite" is the magic spell of romance. What can be compared to the woods—Nature's own sanctuary? Sunbeams, leaves, dewdrops and moss wave through their branches, shedding a balmy freshness, whilst the wafting of the wind, like a distant hymn, murmurs in the silence. This is the quiet retreat for solitary thought. Under the sheltering roof of the *Pat*, the ancients imagined *Apollon* was born, and his leaves contained his ornament until he chose the laurel. Its blossoms are celebrated in eastern songs, whilst its branches crowned the Olympic victor and were also consecrated to great solemnities. Fruitfulness, peace, honor and wisdom, selected the Palm for their symbol. We involuntarily feel a deep interest for trees, and hail with joy and gladness the season when they put off their winter mourning. They are the living memorials of times gone by, standing as mediators between *Past* and *Present*. Witnesses too are they of our own pilgrimage on the earth, for our youth has grown up with them, our earliest and most cherished thoughts have become interwoven with them, and thus they are a waking echo even for our deeply slumbering feelings and imaginations.

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BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1863.

HERALD FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.
The 1st of April will be a favorable time for new subscribers, to begin taking the HERALD. We will send for the rest of the year for \$1.50, or for a whole year to April 1864, for \$2.00, as subscribers may prefer. It will be seen that this time covers the proceedings of all the New England Conferences. Will our brethren the preachers please make no more effort for us to secure the lacking one thousand? A few are at work, but it needs all, to command complete success.

LAY REPRESENTATION.

It will be seen by the letter of our New York Correspondent that a meeting has been held in New York to consider the question of Lay Representation in the Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It is proposed to hold a Convention on the subject in May next.

Ex-Governor Wright, of Indiana, a well-known zealous Methodist, made a strong and sensible plea for Lay Representation, and was more practical than any other speaker. He desired that our Church government should be modeled somewhat after the State, "the bishop to constitute the executive, the ministers the Senate, and the laity the House of Representatives." It would be natural to ask who in such a case would constitute the "people"? Would not such a scheme be a sort of Cerberus, or three-headed animal, without any body? Certainly the scheme would demand that the bishops should be elected for a specified time—which would probably be an improvement.

Bishop Simpson thought the church could be elevated slowly and safely into Lay Representation. There should be no criminous and bittorous. He wanted to see the laity co-operating in all the financial, educational, and benevolent movements of the church. Dr. Durbin and Rev. W. H. Hatfield expressed nearly the same ideas.

Our own views have been too often and plainly expressed to be unknown. We think that a system should be devised by which the people and ministry shall be made unitarily responsible for the government of the church. We are in favor of Conferences in which both the laity and ministry shall be unitarily represented, not in co-operative separate bodies, but together. We are in favor of certain other changes, which, though slight in themselves, would entirely popularize the government of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and free it from some dangerous liabilities to abuse. For instance: The stewards should be elected by the societies; the class leaders should be nominated by the preacher in charge and elected, either by the classes respectively, or by the societies. These two changes would, in our opinion, work no evil, but much good, and forever deliver the church from the reproach of having official boards made up wholly by the ministry, either directly or indirectly, and also make our boast good that our ministers are recommended for license by the laity. They are now recommended by laymen, it is true; but it is by laymen appointed by the ministry, not by laymen elected by the laity.

It must be confessed that the greatest difficulty connected with the subject of Lay Representation, is the want of a definite plan, by which the representatives should be chosen, and according to which they should act. The two hard questions are, How shall we get them? What shall they do after we get them? We do not propose these difficulties to oppose the movement, but to give it practical shape. Some of the advocates of Lay Representation, who have more zeal than discretion, declaim vociferously about it, and erect a huge man of straw in the shape of tyrannical opposition to it, which exists only in their own diseased imagination, and proceed valourously to knock it down and abuse it. Now we suggest that before any more time is wasted in this superfluous heroism, a definite statement of what is wanted be made.

If it can be shown to the ministry that the laity propose to increase the efficiency and the purity and the moral power of the church, they will be the last men to stand in the way of it. They are also open to conviction. They have given up not a little to become ministers. As a general thing they sacrifice all the hope of political office and influence, and many other avenues of power and usefulness and enjoyment open to the laity; they have no permanent homes in any city or town, and often not even in a State, being itinerants. All the ambition open to them is activity in the church. We hope that the laity do not envy them even that. We observe again, that we notice this not to oppose the proposition, but to expose the indiscretion and injustice of those few zealots, who, not content with advancing lay representation, charge or intimate, that the ministry are opposed to it, simply because they like power. It should be remembered that the ministry, when they become ministers, give up much and gain little, except an opportunity to obey the divine call, and win souls to Christ. Laymen, if they have equal authority and voice and power in the church with the ministry, have also, at the same time, a permanent home if they choose, and all the other social, civil, and political privileges, of which, by virtue of their office, the ministry are deprived. Remember, lay representation is a bargain by which the ministers give something and receive nothing. It is a bargain by which the laity receive something and give nothing. It increases the disparity already existing between the ministry and laity, to the disadvantage of the ministry.

Cannot our lay brethren afford to be magnanimous, at least in their discussions? The ministry have been magnanimous, even in their actions. In General Conference assembled, they were overpowered by the difficulties of the case. No eminent layman, or body of laymen, had stated definitely what the advocates of lay representation wanted. They discussed the subject fairly. Fully five sixths of all who spoke expressed the sentiment that if the laity desire to be represented in our Conferences, they were anxious that they should be. Many of the Conferences, without any authority to do so had already invited laymen to sit, and speak, and vote with them in Conference. And yet we hear that the ministry have power.

Brethren in the laity, this is not Christian; it is not manly. The ministry are, as their name imports, your servants. Especially is it so in the Methodist Episcopal Church. They do the work of the church for you indefinitely, and all their life long, for a mere support. They do it because they love the work, and believe God calls them to it. If you want to enter their Conferences, they have already said come in. The door is open. There is not room for all at once—for, thank God, the members are many. Tell us, then, how you wish to come, and what you wish to do, but do not, we beseech you, while disagreeing among yourselves, charge the fault upon the ministry.

We may hereafter show what we think may be a good solution of the difficulty, but we have only room now to add that we fear the result of holding Conventions to agitate the church on the subject. They will be very likely to provoke counter Conventions and bitter party spirit. But if they must be held, we implore both laymen and ministers to cultivate a mutual magnanimity, and supreme devotion to the cause of Christ. We hope the church will be spared the disgraceful result of party factions and disputes on a subject so intimately connected with its great mission.

Since the above was in type we have received a letter on the subject from one of our most experienced and judicious ministers, in the New York Conference. Inasmuch as we are not sure that he intended it for publication, we withhold the name, but we doubt not that many entertain similar sentiments. We dissent from it in only one particular, to wit, that democracy in government is still an experiment. We consider it decided beyond dispute that democratic institutions are incomparably better than monarchies, or aristocracies so called, or any other form of government. We quote from the letter:

"It happens once in my life to be undecided in regard to the important points for church representation which has sprung up in our days. On temperance or anti-slavery, on foreign missions or theological schools, I have not been without a clear opinion,

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and a deep and lasting interest; but my belief of the advantage of lay representation is contingent on the interest which the laity feel upon the subject. If they are not earnest for it, it would be absurd to coax or force them into it; if they are earnest for it, it would be pernicious to refuse them.

But the laity are on the side of liberality, but democracy is the Church of the laity.

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NEWS FROM THE WAR.

From the Army of the Potomac.—A brilliant cavalry engagement took place, 17th inst., in Culpeper County, between a brigade of Federal cavalry under Gen. Averill, and rebel cavalry under Fitzhugh Lee. The cavalry crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. The advance guard arrived at the Ford about daylight and found it well defended by dismounted cavalry and sharpshooters concealed in houses and behind trees and fences. These approaches on both sides were rendered impassable by strong abatis, while the water was four feet deep. After several attempts to cross under a hot fire, a platoon from the 1st R. I. cavalry, led by Lieutenant Brown, dashed into the stream followed by the axmen, who soon removed the abatis. The gallant followers were met by volleys of bullets, but so sudden and surprising was the movement that 25 rebels were captured. The whole force immediately followed, and the artillery was taken over with the ammunition in the feed bags of the horses, carried by the cavalry, and repacked on the other side. After resting a short time, the column moved forward a mile or two, when it discovered Lee's Brigade advancing. The action soon commenced, both parties being supported by artillery. The rebels charged but were repulsed by our men, who in turn charged upon the enemy, driving them to the woods beyond. Gen. Averill next took up a position a mile in advance of his first one, and waited for an attack. The rebels made their appearance and were again driven from the field. The battle lasted more than four hours. Gen. Averill held his position till sunset, and then retired to the north side of the river without molestation from the enemy. The forces engaged were said to number 2,000 on each side. The rebel loss was 60 prisoners, and many hundred wounded; our loss was 9 killed, 35 wounded, and 40 prisoners.

Gen. Hooker and Medical Director Letterman pronounced the Army of the Potomac the best fighting army in the world. From positive information, the mortality in the rebel army is known to be nearly seven-tenths per cent. greater than that of the Union army. In regard to the camp fare, the correspondent of the *Robot* Journal says—“The outside barbarians who follow the example of Yankee Doodle, and come down to camp, are evidently rather taken, shock by the excellence of the cheer served up to them in plates, at some of the mess tables. True, there are no *entrees* or *entremets*—no potis or confectionery; but such famous Irish stews, steaks smothered in onions, fried fish or mattoon chops, never served at any Boston restaurant. Then, too, there are varied species of corn bread concocted by contrabands, who generally preside over the culinary department, and who would be an acquisition to Parker or to George Young, could they be added to the kitchen cabinets of those purveyors of good cheer.”

In the course of an interview with some of his officers, General Hooker said: “So far as we are concerned he meant that there should be no more mistakes or doubtful results. If the enemy did not run, God help them.”

From *Newsweek*, N. C.—On the 14th and 15th, the rebels commanded by Gen. Pettigrew attacked the defenses of Newbern, but were driven away with heavy loss in killed and wounded. Our loss was only one man killed and two wounded.

From the *Vicksburg Expedition*.—The reported capture of Yazoo City by the Yazoo Pass expedition has not as yet, the 23d, been confirmed. A correspondent of the *Chicago Times*, writing March 6th, says the boats of the fleet found plenty of cotton on the route which was confiscated for armor to protect the boats. The Lake Providence canal was completed as early as the 11th, but the water had not then been let in. The rebels attempted to stop the digging of the canal by cutting the levee; this act resulted in inundating more than one hundred miles of Louisiana territory, destroying millions of dollars worth of property. The Vicksburg canal was nearly completed when the dam gave way and let in the flood, giving the workmen barely time to escape without saving their tools they were working with. The water broke over the banks of the canal on the west side, and flooded the encampments of the troops, and they moved their camps to the levee. On the 9th inst. another counterfeited gunboat was sent past Vicksburg, at night. The imitation was accurate and the enemy opened a terrific cannonading upon her, and continued it for an hour, as slowly passed the batteries.

The report that the Yazoo Pass expedition had reached Yazoo City is erroneous; on the 16th it had reached Greenwood, four miles below the Tallahatchie and Yalobusha, which unite and form the Yazoo. At that point they found Fort Pemberton, which at the date received had not been passed. Reinforcements are being rapidly sent, and it is expected that our fleet will soon be able to reduce the fortifications on the Yazoo.

From *Murfree's*.—Col. Hall was on a scout, in command of a brigade, near Milton in the vicinity of Memphis, when he was attacked and captured by Major Bradford's division, about eight or ten regiments, and after a four hours' fight whipped and driven them to us with a loss to us of 7 killed and 21 wounded, including one captain. The rebel loss was 30 to 40 killed, including three commissioned officers, 140 wounded and prisoners, including three commissioned officers.

From the *Department of the Gulf*.—On the 7th inst., Gen. Banks left New Orleans, Baton Rouge, to lead the expedition to Mobile, 22 miles above the Red River. They have received no intelligence concerning the movements of the expedition, except from rebel sources. The Richmond Whig of the 17th says, Admiral Foote's fleet commenced the bombardment of the place on the 14th, and the fleet was repulsed, with the loss of the ship-of-war Mississippi. One gunboat passed the batteries in a damaged condition. Dispatches from Jackson, Miss., 14th inst., have reached Richmond, stating that St. Helena was attacked in the rear on Monday, 9th, and heavy firing was heard there on the 13th. St. Helena is about twenty-five miles in the rear of Port Hudson, in an easterly direction. It is noticed that the Richmond Whig of the 18th inst., mourns over the reverse in the Southwest, and that a dispatch from Port Hudson was read in the rebel Senate the same day, which caused lively sensation. From these facts it is inferred that Port Hudson is invested by land and water, and that the results so far known are unfavorable to the rebels.

A letter from the Department of the Gulf says that General Weitzel has tried the experiment of subinating his army on the country, and has thus far been successful. Foraging parties are sent out every day, returning at night with cattle, hay, potatoes, corn, &c.

Advices from Galveston, Texas, state that the rebels have erected formidable batteries at Galveston, mounted with the guns taken from the Harriet Lane and Westfield. The Harriet Lane is up the river and being ironclad. It is not probable that our fleet, as at present constituted, will undertake any thing against the city.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

—Some months ago the British Minister in Brazil made some demands against Brazilian subjects in favor of British claimants which the Government of Brazil considered unjust, and refused to grant, offering to leave the master to arbiters. But the British Minister ordered the commander of one of Her Majesty's cruisers to seize some Brazilian vessels and cancel the claim; this was accordingly done. As may be supposed, this outrage caused the greatest indignation, and at last accounts, January 20, great excitement continued. The Emperor has subscribed a monthly sum of 24,000 francs as long as it might be found necessary, to put the country in a state of defense. The Empire a sum of 15,000 francs, and moreover, 3,000 francs every month, and each of the Princesses 3,000 francs a month. The Emperor repeated his demands at the entrance of the harbor, and large numbers of young men engaged, and the excitement against the British was increasing every day, and the answer of the English Cabinet to the last proposition sent to London was with satisfaction.

The subject of Confederate seamen was lately before the British House of Commons. Mr. Layard said the attention of the Government has been called to more than one vessel of the kind, but no evidence had yet been furnished to enable the Government to interfere. Strict orders had been given for all suspected vessels to be strictly watched.

Fast Day in Massachusetts.—Gov. Andrew has appointed Thursday, the second day of April next, to be kept and observed by the people of Massachusetts, as a day of public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

He calls upon the citizens to bear in mind their dependence and unworthiness, and to consecrate our trust in God, who is the source of all life and help and salvation. He says: “Let our Fast be made acceptable before him, by seeking to follow the great example of Our Lord, whose Cross and Passion are especially commemorated by many believers at this season of the revolving year; and

by the fervent purposes of sincere hearts to conform to the laws and the practices of our country, and to conform our life and conduct as a people to the Gospel He taught and the spirit of His example upon earth.”

Fast Day in New Hampshire.—Thursday, the 16th of April, has been designated by Gov. Berry as a day of public Fast in New Hampshire.

Fast Day in Connecticut.—Gov. Buckingham has appointed April 3 as a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer in Connecticut.

Princetown.—The President and Cabinet, after giving the subject much deliberation, have decided not to grant letters of marque and reprisal under the late law of Congress. In their stead it is understood that all vessels fitted out by private parties for the purpose of capturing rebel pirates will be duly commissioned in the navy and allowed to go on their mission. This course will be likely to put at rest the assumption by foreign journals that the Government is desirous, by this means, of bringing on a foreign war, that it might then have an excuse for giving up the contest with the rebels and acknowledging their independence.

A Transomme Judge.—Col. Carrington, commanding at Indianapolis, Ind., sent some officers and a detail of soldiers to Clark County, Ill., to arrest two deserters. A saloon keeper, Judge of a Circuit Court of Illinois, arrested the officers for kidnapping, and the deserters were set at liberty. Judge Constance refused to recognize the authority given to the officers by the War Department, or to permit them to prove that the men were deserters, and then only in the presence of an officer.

Americans in Chili have sent to the Sanitary Commission \$5,000, for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers of Clark County.

These arrests were reported to Maj. Gen. Wright, commander of the Department, who ordered Col. Carrington to take a sufficient force and arrest the judge and deserters. The arrest was effected, but one of the soldiers was dangerously injured by being struck on the head with an ax by the mother of one of the deserters. The officers stated that two Knights of the Golden Circle had taken him to join the order, informing him that if he joined them he would be protected against arrest for desertion.

Death.—Ex-Governor Hopper, of Rhode Island, has declined the nomination of the Democratic and Constitutional Union Conventions of that State as candidate for Governor, on the ground that he is in favor of supporting the General Government.

Union.—The Ohio Legislature has resolved, “That we will have no dissolution of the Union; that we will have no armistice; that we can fight as long as rebels and traitors can; that the war shall go on until law is restored; and we will never despair of the Republic.” This resolution was offered by a Union Democrat.

The National Union League, started in New York City, already has many signatures. Union organizations are fast springing up throughout the loyal States. It is proposed to organize Union leagues in every city and town throughout the country, the object of which is to do away with all partisan feelings and give an unconditional support to the Government. The work has already commenced.

All communications relating to the business of Provost Marshals, and the provisions of the act aforesaid, will be addressed to the Provost Marshal General, Washington, D. C.

Second.—That appointments which have been heretofore made of Provost Marshals are hereby revoked.

By Order of the Secretary of War,

W. H. HARVEY, Adj't Gen'l.

At Washington, March 15, 1863.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—Those who have been sent to Providence to attend the annual meeting of the Providence Conference, will be in Providence, on Saturday, April 1, and from New Bedford, at 10.30. Preachers will be directed to meet at the Tabernacle, at 10.30, and to proceed to the Tabernacle, at 11.30, for the entertainment by calling at their lodgings.

Arrival at Warren, 1.30 P. M.

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Poetry.

For Zion's Herald.

WOUNDED AND DYING.

BY JOHN N. IRISH.

Come to me, dearest, the fleet hours are flying,
And over me coldly the death-shivers creep :
The two bolts are spent, and your soldier is dying,
He's wounded and weary and willing to sleep.
Come to me, dearest, and bless me and kiss me.
And calm me and charm me the way that you know;
Tears will be falling—ah, how you will miss me
When shadows crowd darkly and life runs low.

E. E. SHIRLEY.

ers and sisters of our land, who do so much in moulding the minds of those who will sometimes listen to no one else, I appeal. Give your influence to the side of right, and if your sons and brothers are far away at their post of duty, in your closet, by giving them your earnest, heartfelt prayers, you may cause them to feel their need of a pardon through the Saviour's blood, (though perhaps now hardened and reckless) and you may do more for the salvation of our loved land than any mailed and bearded warrior.

May the time soon come when the Union Army shall be distinguished for strict Christian discipline. We may expect the God of battles will hear our cry, and victory perch upon our banners, when the whole northern army is, " My God and my country."

Feb. 19, 1863.

Children.

For Zion's Herald.

FOUND DEAD!

BY C. HENRY ST. JOHNS.

A golden light from a lofty hall
Illumines the icy street,
Where many a delicate dancing foot
Is tripping to melody sweet.
The night is dark, the wind is high,
Whirling the snow about;
But as oft as a beautiful gown glides in
A river of light flows out,—
A river of light and a gush of song,
That charms the ear and the eye
Of the poor little maid and her brother, who stand
In their rags, and shiver and sigh :

O, brother! a beautiful thing it is
To be rich and grand like these;
Such clothes to wear, and music to hear,
And have and do what you please;
And never to know a want or a woe,
Nor cold nor hunger to feel,
Nor yet to beg at a hundred doors
Before you may taste of a meal !

O, see that lady ent'ring now—

What a beautiful dress she wears !

To keep us in plenty for years !

But look ! only look ! it is gold !

She is gone ! then wait for the next,—don't cry,

You may take my shawl if you're cold.

Ah well ; poor mother, before she died,

She said she was going away

To a city whose streets were paved with gold,

That was over as bright as day.—

A day without night and a clime without cold,

To hunger and sorrow unknown :

How I begged to go with her, and bitterly cried

When she said she must journey alone !

But she said that if I were a gentle child,

And kind and tender to you,

That I, no matter how poor I be,

Should certainly enter there too !

• • • •

The wintry morning is keen and gray,
The snow lies deep on the ground,
The lights are dim in the blinding storm,
And the watchman walks his round ;
He tramps along by the lofty hall,
Which snow is so dark and dumb—
Where beauty is dreaming of joys that are past,
As well as of pleasures to come :

Ho ! what ! what is this—a cat or a dog—

That perished by frost or fright ?

A cap—a shawl—a tress of hair—

A hand ! O, horrible sight !

Years of pity are shed in vain,

That fall upon lifeless clay.—

Two children that sorrowed on earth last night,

Are cherub in heaven to-day !

March, 1862.

LITTLE JOE.

Little Joe was the son of a farmer in the State of P. When quite young his father removed with his family to the South. Little as he was when he left his native State, Joe remembered the old stone house with its wide chimney, the clear spring at the foot of the little hill, and the sweet daisies roses that grew there. He remembered, too, the pleasant Quaker city only a few miles distant, where he had so often played with his father to market. That city was connected with all his boyish dreams. There he told his sisters he should go, a merchant prince, and of the fine things they should have. He was now a bright, active boy of fifteen, dearly beloved by all who knew him, chiefly for his sunny and affectionate disposition. His father, proud of his boy, and pleased with the ambition he manifested, obtained the situation he had so long desired, with an old friend. Joe came to P. with the ruddy hue of health upon his cheek, with a free, bounding step and a heart full of bright anticipations; the centre of many fond hopes and with many blessings.

For a few months his letters from home were frequent; then this wicked rebellion broke out and his father wrote : " This war will soon be over; stay where you are, and God bless you Joe." Soon all communication with the South was cut off.

They knew that some must fall, and from every heart, however unwilling, came the inquiry, " Will it be I ? " Far from those social groups, on his solitary bed, the faint-spirited paces slowly to and fro. Thoughts of other days are clustering around him. Of that boyhood home on " Old Bunker's lonely height," he remembers how eagerly he listened, by his gentle mother's knee, to the oft told story of that fierce struggle where the glorious Warren and his heart swells with patriotic joy as he thinks of the grandmama who also fell on that lovely day. Little he thought when his childish cheek glowed, and his eye flashed at the recital of those heroic deeds, that his shoulders should ever bear the soldier's knapsack, and his arm wield the bayonet. He was in imagination the dark-haired youth leading his lady bride to the altar, and his heart throb with anguish as he thinks that his devoted wife may be a widow and his babies fatherless another day has closed.

But that pious mother who instilled into his mind the principles embodied in Warren's ever memorable words, " It is sweet for our country to die," had also taught him the more important one of entire devotion to the Pilgrims' God. A true soldier of the cross, he was therefore an unflinching warrior in his country's defense.

The next day was a bloody one. The hardy sons of the Puritans were as unyielding in their defense of right as their worthy ancestors, and the struggle was long and terrible. It was ended, and stretched upon the plain lay the ghastly corpses of many brave soldiers. The many sentinel of last eve is sleeping also his last sleep. A sweet smile rests upon his placid features, and while one hand grasps the trusty musket, the other rests upon his breast, over the pocket which contains his well read Bible. He has received his discharge from earth, and with his hand resting upon his passport to the heavenly country, O, as I looked upon little Joe, I thought, Christian mother, you rest from your labors and your weary toil. Cast thy bread upon the waters, remember the promise, ye shall gather it again.

M. P. M.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING.—Let these parents who would continue to excuse themselves by observing, " We're poor," lay their hands upon their hearts and say whether they ever knew an instance when God withheld his grace while he was studied, the more difficult he found it to deny the Divine agency in calling into life this beautiful universe. Then he became convinced, also, that we are the creatures of the same divine Power, and that God had sent his Son to be our Redeemer upon

Agricultural.

ITALIAN HONEY-BEES.

MR. EDITOR.—In answer to the numerous letters of inquiry pertaining to this new species, allow me to inform the correspondents, to give a description of the peculiar kind of bee.

When they were first introduced into this country, I regarded them more of a *humble-bee*, than an improved species of honey bee, and no doubt but others have come to the same conclusion. But after due consideration and experiments for the past three years, I have become fully convinced of their superiority in every respect. They are to be found in the South, the West, and the North, and will make much faster, better, collect honey much faster, work earlier in the morning and later at night, than our native kind. The queens are more prolific, and will brood much faster than the common species. They will collect honey from some species of flowers which other bees pass by. Their wax is more durable, and their honey is more fragrant and sweeter than any common species. They are more prolific, and will brood much faster than the common species. They will collect honey from some species of flowers which other bees pass by. 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